

Tenneco Minerals  
A Tenneco Company

12136 W. Bayaud Ave.  
P.O. Box 281300  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
(303) 987-6200



November 20, 1990

State of Utah  
Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control  
288 North 1460 West  
P.O. Box 16690  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0690

DOGM  
MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

Attention: Mr. Lyle Stott

Re: Goldstrike Mine  
Release of Process Solution

Dear Mr. Stott:

Per the Bureau's request, the following is a summary of Tenneco Minerals' proposed investigation activities as presented to you and Mr. Kiran Bhayani during the meeting on November 7, 1990.

During the meeting, Tenneco proposed to conduct a more detailed geotechnical and environmental investigation plan to verify the source, quantify, to the extent practicable, the amount released and to provide data for the development of a corrective action plan. During the geotechnical and environmental investigation, Tenneco proposes to peel back the liner on Pad 1 in the vicinity of the solution collection area near the sump. Leak detector pipe number 8 and the boots of all other accessible leak detection ports in this vicinity will also be inspected for potential leakage. In addition, observations of the heap will also be made to determine whether any seepage has occurred.

Approximately three test pits will be excavated with a backhoe to gather samples for geotechnical and environmental analysis. The test pits will be located on the pad perimeter road. The specific number, dimensions and locations will be determined in the field. Samples will be collected and analyzed for soil parameters. The soil parameters may include density, moisture, Atterberg limits (plasticity), consolidation, shear strength (triaxial compression) and permeability.

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Soil samples will also be obtained from each of the pits to provide a preliminary assessment of the horizontal and vertical extent of contamination. Soil samples will be obtained from each pit and analyzed for WAD Cyanide using an outside independent laboratory. The soil samples will be obtained using a sampling trowel that is decontaminated between samples. The exact number and location of samples will be determined in the field.

The data received from this portion of the investigation will be used in combination with permeability and moisture data to provide an estimate of the amount of solution that was released. Depending on the results of the soil samples, additional investigative measures may be appropriate to further assess the extent of contamination.

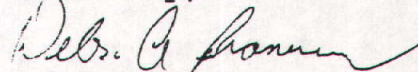
Tenneco is currently surveying elevations on the pad perimeter road and on the pad outslope below the road to determine if settlement or lateral movement is occurring. This data will help to assess the mechanism for liner stretching at the pad berm.

Draindown of Pad 1 is currently in progress. The pregnant line from Pad 2 has been re-routed into a separate solution transport system; therefore, this flow no longer combines with Pad 1 solutions. Investigation activities will commence after significant draindown of Pad 1 occurs.

A report summarizing the results of the investigation will be prepared and submitted to the Bureau within two weeks after the data from the investigation is compiled. The report will also include a proposed corrective action plan as well as a plan for any necessary remediation.

If you have any additional comments or questions on the above, please call me at (303) 987-6256.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Brannum  
Division Environmental  
Specialist

cc: Mr. Kiran Bhayani - UBWPC  
Mr. Bill Lawson - Southwest Local Health Department  
Mr. Wayne Hedburg - DOGM  
Mr. Neil Taylor  
Mr. Wayne Thomas - District Engineer, St. George